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TWO REGIMENTS OF RUSSIAN COWARDS RUN

STRONG ENEMY ATTACKS NEAR OCNA.

No Important Battles Being Fought on Front in France and Belgium.

While the Russians west of Fokshani again have deserted their posts, thereby permitting the Teutonic allies to make additional gains, in the region of Ocna and Kezdi-Vasarhely, they are giving battle to the invaders and on both sectors have repulsed strong attacks. Between Ireshti and Fokshani a majority of the men comprising two Russian regiments deserted their trenches and fled, but the Russian commanders have taken steps to restore the former status of the line by filling the gap with loyal men.

Following the reports of fresh disaffection among the Russians on the East Bukovina front, which came prior to the commencement of the retrograde movement in Southern Moldavia, Premier Kerensky, in a speech at the closing session of the Moscow conference, let it be known again that order was to be brought out of the chaos by the putting to death of the cowards who threw down their arms in the face of the enemy. The possibility that the "rule of blood and iron" already has begun with the deserters before Fokshani is indicated in the latest Russian official communication which says that one of the cowardly regiments was "dispersed."

Throw in Tried Troops.
As is usual when the Germans see a faltering among their foes, they have thrown into the battle line in Moldavia some of their tried attacking troops who doubtless will press to the full the advantage they have gained through the cowardice of the Russians.

On the Bainszazi plateau of the Austro-Italian theatre General Cadorna is giving the Austrians no rest keeping up his intensive attack along the entire front. New gains of considerable importance in the general scheme of the Italian commander in chief's offensive have been made and at several points where the Austrians have striven to hold back the Italians or recapture lost positions they have been repulsed. More than 500 new prisoners have been taken by the Italians.

On the front in France and Belgium no important engagements have taken place although on the various sectors held by the British and French artillery duels are being fought and some operations by infantry are taking place.

BIG BRITISH SHIP SUNK.

Six of Steamer Verdi's Crew Reported Missing.

An Atlantic Port, Aug. 30.—Word has been received here indicating that the British 7,000-ton steamship Verdi has been sunk, with the loss of six of her crew. The Verdi left here for an English port on August 12, with cargo, but no passengers. Her crew numbered 112.

A cable message to the owners of the Verdi refers to all the members of her crew having been saved with the exception of six, but gives no details. The message indicates, the owners said, that the vessel was sunk about five days ago.

DONATION TO RED CROSS

Chicago, Aug. 28.—Charles A. Comiskey, president of the Chicago American League Baseball Club, today sent to the American Red Cross his fifth donation to that fund, \$3,004.96, representing a percentage of the gross receipts in recent series of games at Comiskey Ball Park.

PROTEST AGAINST DRAFT.

Washington, Aug. 28.—A protest against the draft signed by nearly 1,000 residents of Webster and adjoining counties of Mississippi was presented to the senate today by Senator Vardiman and referred to the military committee.

FRENCH ADVANCING IN VERDUN SECTOR

PETIN'S FORCES MAINTAIN GAINS ON AISNE LINE

Teutons Bringing Up Large Number of Fresh Troops to Avert Annihilation.

Grand Headquarters of the French Army in France, Sunday, Aug. 26 (Delayed). (By the Associated Press.)—The gallantry of the French troops before Verdun carried them forward again today when they attacked between Mortfont farm and La Chaume wood and advanced another hundred yards, capturing nearly a thousand prisoners. The territory to the south of Beaumont heights and woods almost to the village of Beaumont fell into their hands.

The first attack in the center was checked for a time but the resistance of the numerous nests of machine guns was overcome by the wonderful dash of the French who aided the Canadians. The German artillery, which seems to be weakening, has been heavily bombed late before retiring under pressure but the firing has been wild, and less harm has been done.

Somewhat slowly, but nevertheless surely, the Italians are breaking down the resistance of the Austrians in the region around Monte Santo, north of Gorizia, and making their way eastward towards the border of upper Carniola.

In their endeavor to hold back the Italians, the Austrians have brought to this sector large numbers of fresh men, and at last reports the fighting was most intense.

Virtually nothing is being vouchsafed in the Italian official communications which even approximately record the advances General Cadorna's men have made since they began their offensive from the region of Tolmino to the sea, the Italian war office probably desiring to conceal from the enemy the exact objectives it has in view. The latest communication, for instance, leaves entirely alone the situation on the Carso front, where previous reports had announced progress for the Italians toward Trieste.

Counter Attacks Fail.
On the front in France the Germans have been throwing counter attacks against the French line in the region of Verdun, but not only have the efforts of General Petain maintained their gains in their entirety but have taken more than 1,100 additional prisoners. Likewise on the Aisne front the German crown prince is keeping up his offensive against the French, but here also the attempts met with complete failure.

Along the front held by the British the operations have scarcely risen above the character of trench raids, although on various sectors vigorous artillery duels are in progress. The Berlin war office reports the capture of Russian positions near Jacobstadt, between Riga and Dvinsk on the northern Russian front, but makes no mention of a resumption of the operations begun last week east of Riga. In Roumania the Russo-Roumanian forces still are holding their own against the invaders. On the Fokshani sector Field Marshal von Mackensen's forces seemingly have been unable to advance farther, owing to the stiffening in the line of the defenders.

BAKER MAKING INVESTIGATION

"Negro-in-Army" Question Now Subject of Thorough Probe.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Secretary of War Baker today told Senator Sheppard of Texas, that the recent Houston affair had given him (the secretary) an opportunity to bring up for thorough investigation and consideration the whole question of the negro in the army in all its phases, and that the department hoped to reach a conclusion which would be to the best interests of all concerned after making this new and complete survey of the subject. Senator Sheppard was decidedly encouraged at the close of the interview.

POPE'S PEACE PROPOSALS ARE REJECTED BY PRESIDENT WILSON

REPLY SAYS PLANS PROPOSED WOULD ALLOW PRUSSIANS TIME TO RECUPERATE.

World Must Be Made Safe for Democracy With Permanent Peace Based Upon Faith of All the Peoples of the World, Including Those of the Central Powers

Washington, Aug. 28.—President Wilson has rejected the Pope's peace proposals.

In a note dispatched last night and made public here tonight, the President says that while every heart not blinded and hardened by the terrible war must be touched by the moving appeal of His Holiness, it would be folly to take the path of peace he points out if it does not in fact lead to the goal he proposes.

To deal with such a power as the present rulers of Germany upon Pope Benedict's plan, declares the President, would involve a recuperation of the strength and renewal of the world domination policy of that power, now balked, but not defeated after sweeping a continent with the blood of innocent women and children, and the helpless poor, as well as of soldiers.

Permanent peace must be based upon the faith of all of the peoples and upon justice and fairness, and the common rights of mankind, he adds, and "we cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves, as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting."

The text of the note follows:

"To his Holiness—

"Benedict XV Pope:

"In acknowledgement of the communication of your Holiness to the belligerent peoples, dated August 1, 1917, the President of the United States requests me to transmit the following reply:

President's Reply.

"Every heart that has not been blinded and hardened by this terrible war must be touched by this moving appeal of his Holiness, the Pope, must feel the dignity and force of the humane and generous motives, which prompted it, and must fervently wish that we might take the path of peace he so persuasively points out. But it would be folly to take it, if it does not in fact lead to the goal he proposes. Our response must be based upon the stern facts and upon nothing else. It is not a mere cessation of arms he desires; it is a stable and enduring peace. This agony must not be gone through with again and it must be a matter of very sober judgment what will insure us against it.

Pope's Proposals.

"His Holiness in substance proposes that we return to the status quo ante bellum, and that then there be a general condonation, disarmament and a concert of nations based upon an acceptance of the principle of arbitration; that by a similar concert freedom of the seas be established; and that the territorial claims of France and Italy, the perplexing problems of the Balkan States, and the restitution of Poland be left to such conciliatory adjustments as may be possible of the peoples whose political fortunes and affiliations will be involved.

Objects of War.

"It is manifest that no part of this program can be successfully carried out unless the restitution of the status quo ante bellum furnishes a firm and satisfactory basis for it. The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an irresponsible government which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry the plan out without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long established practices and long cherished principles of international action and honor; which chose its own time for the war; delivered its blow fiercely and suddenly; stopped at no barrier either of law or of mercy; swept a whole continent within the tide of blood—not the blood of soldiers only, but the blood of innocent women and children also, and of the helpless poor; and now stands balked but not defeated, the enemy of four-fifths of the world. This power is not the German people. It is no business of ours how that great people came under its control or submitted with temporary zest to the domination of its purposes; but it is our business

to see to it that the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling.

Time to Recuperate.

"To deal with such a power by way of peace upon the plan proposed by his Holiness the Pope would, so far as we can see, involve a recuperation of its strength and a renewal of its policy; would make it necessary to create a permanent hostile combination of nations against the German people, who are its instruments; and would result in abandoning the new born Russia to the intrigue, the manifold subtle interference and the certain counter revolution which would be attempted by all the malign influences to which the German government has of late accustomed the world. Can peace be based upon a restitution of its power or upon any word of honor it could pledge in a treaty of settlement and accommodation?

Intolerable Wrongs.

"Responsible statement must now everywhere see, if they never saw before, that no peace can rest securely upon political or economic restitution meant to benefit some nations and cripple or embarrass others, upon vindictive action or any action of any sort, or any kind of revenge or deliberate injury. The American people have suffered intolerable wrongs at the hands of the Imperial German government, but they desire no reprisal upon the German people, who have themselves suffered all things in this war, which they did not choose. They believe that peace should rest upon the rights of peoples, not the rights of governments—the rights of peoples great or small, weak or powerful, their equal right to freedom and security and self-government and to a participation upon fair terms in the economic opportunities of the world—the German people, of course, included, if they will accept equality and not seek domination.

Test of Peace Plans.

"The test, therefore, of every plan of peace is this: Is it based upon the faith of all the peoples involved or merely upon the word of an ambitious and intriguing government, on the one hand, and of a group of free peoples on the other? This is a test which goes to the root of the matter; and it is the test which must be applied.

"The purposes of the United States in this war are known to the whole world—to every people to whom the truth has been permitted to come. They do not need to be stated again. We seek no material advantage of any kind. We believe that the intolerable wrongs done in this war by the furious and brutal power of the Imperial German government ought to be repaired, but not at the expense of the sovereignty of any people—rather a vindication of the sovereignty both of those that are weak and of those that are strong. Punitive damages, the dismemberment of empires, the estab-

ENLISTED MEN MAY BECOME OFFICERS

NO MORE CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONS.

Will Be Given Every Opportunity to Fit Themselves for Commissions.

Washington, Aug. 28.—Enlisted men of the national army, National Guard and regular army will be given every opportunity to fit themselves for commissions, it was learned today. This is in line with the fixed policy of the government to take no more officers or officer candidates from civil life after the second series of officers training camps, now in progress, has been completed. Thereafter all additional officers needed will be found in the ranks of the various branches of the war army.

To carry out this plan it has virtually been decided to establish an officers' school at each of the divisional training camps. Men from the ranks who have shown special qualifications will be sent to these schools. With staffs of French and British officers of experience on the firing lines on duty at each camp as advisers an unusual opportunity for lecture courses will be presented.

Third Series of Camps.

The divisional officers camps will make the third series of such camps arranged by the war department to provide men to command the enormous forces being raised for the war.

Line commissions will be granted to men from civil life after they are started, except that a few men who were denied admission to the other camps through loss of their orders in the mail or some other mischance may be given an opportunity in the third series.

Will Pass Out of Existence.

Secretary Baker pointed out today, in reply to a question as to whether the revised divisional army organization adopted for the war would be continued after the restoration of peace, that with the exception of the officers of the regular and a few men of the old regular enlisted forces, whose enlistments may not have expired at that time, the entire war army will pass out of existence.

The question of establishing a continuing military policy of universal service has been debated to some extent. The impression prevails among many members of congress, however, that it would be unwise to take up this question now. If the war is long it may become necessary to provide for the registration of new classes, which reach the military age of the selective service bill each year.

CONSCRIPTION IN CANADA.

Toronto, Aug. 28.—The military conscription bill for the Dominion of Canada became a law when it was signed by the Governor General here today. The bill was brought from Ottawa by special messenger.

ishment of selfish and exclusive economic league, we deem inexpedient and in the end worse than futile, no proper basis for a peace of any kind, least of all for an enduring peace. That must be based upon justice and fairness and the common rights of mankind.

"We cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves, as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting. Without such guarantees, treaties of settlement, agreements for disarmament, covenants to set up arbitration in the place of force, territorial adjustments, reconstitution of small nations, if made with the German government, no man, no nation could now depend on. We must await some new evidence of the purposes of the great peoples of the Central Powers. God grant it may be given soon and in a way to restore the confidence of all peoples everywhere in the faith of nations and the possibility of a covenanted peace.

"Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America."

GETTING AT CAUSE OF RIOT IN HOUSTON

MUNICIPAL BOARD HEARS TESTIMONY.

Request That Officers Testify Before Board Referred to Inspector General.

Houston, Aug. 28.—The Municipal Board of Inquiry which is taking testimony regarding the disturbance of last Thursday night when one hundred negroes of the Twenty-fourth infantry shot up the west end district of the city, heard witnesses relate of conditions in the camp of the negro soldiers.

The testimony largely was that negro women visited the camp in numbers after nightfall, that empty liquor bottles were plentiful in the grass and weeds about the camp, and that negro soldiers violated the "Jim Crow" law on the street cars at will.

W. D. Dunman, a policeman, testified that a man who said he was Major K. Snow, said to him the night of the disturbance:

"Don't go in the camp, you will be going to your death. I would not go in there myself."

The city of Houston today began what Acting Mayor Moody termed the development of the "real story" of the horror of last Thursday night when 100 negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth infantry shot down fifteen whites.

The board of inquiry appointed by Mayor Moody held its first session late today. Appeals have been sent out through the newspapers for every person with information to report voluntarily to the board of inquiry.

The board, wishes, it has announced, to acquaint Houston citizens with all the phases of the disturbance and to "establish a record for the future."

Gen. Bell said today he would not permit any officer or man under his command to testify at the city investigation.

"Of course" he said, "if the permission of the war department can be obtained I shall have no objection."

Referred to Inspector General.

Washington, Aug. 28.—Secretary Baker today received a telegraphic request from the city officials of Houston, Tex., that army officers who had knowledge of the incidents in the outbreak of members of the Twenty-fourth infantry negroes there recently, be permitted to appear before the civil investigation of the occurrence in progress in the Texas city. The matter was referred to Brig. Gen. Chamberlain, inspector general of the army, who is en route to Houston to co-operate with officials of the Southern department in the military inquiry.

The secretary indicated that the war department contemplated no action of any kind until the findings of the military board of inquiry has been received.

SOME WIRE FLASHES

British ship losses last week, 23 with 18 over 1,600 tons compared with 15 the previous week, and 5 less than 1,600 tons.

Wheat price fixing commission after all day session fail to agree on schedule and adjourn until today.

Italians continue to advance, measure details foreshadow important victory over Austrians.

Austrian minister of public works declares coal crisis in Austria is grave.

Closure rule asked to be invoked for war revenue bill.

Reports made Moscow conference show Russian railroad situation desperate with entire disorganization of transportation.

Steel prices to be fixed by war industries board on a cost plus profit basis. Official announcement expected soon.